

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tatsuo FUKUI

Application No.: New U. S. Application

Filed: July 5, 2001

Docket No.: 109686

For: APPARATUS FOR DETECTING OPTICAL POSITIONAL DEVIATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) An optical positional deviation detecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image field area adjustment mechanism adjusts the image field area on the basis of an asymmetric focus characteristic curve of the L/S mark pattern image obtained when forming the image of the L/S mark pattern within the image field area of said imaging device.

Please add new claim 5 as follows:

-- 5. An optical positional deviation detecting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said image field area adjustment mechanism adjusts the image field area on the basis of an asymmetric focus characteristic curve of the L/S mark pattern image obtained when forming the image of the L/S mark pattern within the image field area of said imaging device.--

Inventor Information

Inventor One Given Name:: Tatsuo
Family Name:: FUKUI
Name Suffix::
City of Residence:: Kawasaki-shi
State or Prov. of Residence::
Country of Residence:: Japan
Citizenship Country:: Japan

Correspondence Information

Correspondence Customer Number:: 25944

Application Information

Title Line One:: APPARATUS FOR DETECTING OPTICAL
Title Line Two:: POSITIONAL DEVIATION
Total Drawing Sheets:: 5
Docket Number:: 109686

Prior Foreign Applications

Foreign Application One:: 2000-208634
Filing Date:: July 10, 2000
Country:: Japan
Priority Claimed:: Yes

Assignee Information

Name of assignee:: NIKON CORPORATION
Assignee Address Line One:: 2-3, MARUNOUCHI 3-CHOME
City:: CHIYODA-KU
State or Province:: TOKYO
Country:: JAPAN

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claim 5 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

3. (Amended) An optical positional deviation detecting apparatus

according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said image field area adjustment mechanism adjusts the image field area on the basis of an asymmetric focus characteristic curve of the L/S mark pattern image obtained when forming the image of the L/S mark pattern within the image field area of said imaging device.